

RESOLUTION NO. 20100211-019

WHEREAS, in January 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed strengthening the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone and is considering more stringent standards for other local air pollutants; and

WHEREAS, based on current data, the City of Austin and Travis County are likely to violate the newly proposed ozone standard; and

WHEREAS, violation of the ozone standard has potentially negative fiscal impacts to the City from a possible loss of jobs from businesses unwilling to locate to or expand operations in Austin, more costly emission control requirements for power plants and other emission sources, additional resource requirements for undertaking transportation conformity analysis, and the threat of federal transportation funding being withheld; and

WHEREAS, roadway and vertical construction activity that use diesel equipment are large sources of ozone-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, which when combined with other non-road emissions sources, made up 15% of the total manmade NOx emissions in the Austin-Round Rock MSA in 2007; and

WHEREAS, particulate matter, also known as "soot" and "black carbon," is emitted in large quantities from heavy-duty diesel vehicles, adversely affecting the health of our community and our natural environment; and

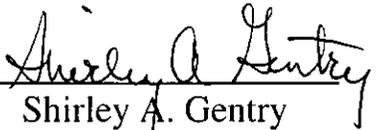
WHEREAS, efforts to reduce construction and demolition emissions will have multiple benefits, including improved air quality, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, reduced fuel costs, and reduced health care costs; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to identify actionable steps to reduce NOx, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction and demolition projects, including, but not limited to, City capital improvement projects, and report back to Council within 90 days with policy recommendations.

ADOPTED: February 11, 2010

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk